



GARUDA NEWS

We find ourselves at the end of operational missions in the Arabian Gulf and have the prospect of six long weeks of transit looming in front of us. With port calls and homecoming in the near future, each member of VAQ-134 is focused as best they can on crossing the finish line strong and completing Operation ENDURING FREEDOM just as vibrantly as we started.

Although the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) never visited port, there were other things to allow Sailors some well deserved R&R including a rare Swim Call opportunity.



As April comes to a close, it's safe to say that each Garuda is diligently counting the days until they finally walk off the plane in Whidbey Island to the open arms of family.

CO'S CORNER



*Commander J.L. Jackson
Commanding Officer*

Garuda Families,

As I write this we are almost at the halfway point of April. We only have a few weeks left in support of our current operations before we start steaming east towards home. We got our Port Call in March, but it was limited to the port facility in Jebel Ali and MWR tours into Dubai. Many of our Sailors took advantage of the tours to places like Ferrari World, one of two water parks, and city tours of Dubai or Abu Dhabi. It was not the perfect situation, but the Garudas made the best of their time off even if

it was just getting off the ship for some food, phone calls, and camaraderie.

The squadron continues to perform well and individual Garudas are excelling with 2-3 personnel completing their Enlisted Air Warfare Specialty (EAWS) qualification every week, many people reaching their weight loss or conditioning goals, and hopefully many doing well on their advancement tests which were all taken in March (we will get the results around Memorial Day).

The exact days and locations of our Port Calls on our return home are still being worked, but we do know we will be pulling into Hawaii in order to pick up our friends and family members for Tiger Cruise. We are working hard to stay focused and finish strong on this deployment. Please try to do the same at home. The Family Readiness Group (FRG) is really getting some momentum and if you have not joined the group yet, check out the information on Facebook under the name "Garuda FRG". Getting involved would be a great way to meet people, make the time go by, and get prepared for our return.

Thanks again for the support that all of us get from our family and friends at home. We could not do what we do without your efforts. I would specifically like to thank Katie Koziol for all her hard work. She will be stepping down as one of our Ombudsmen as she and her family prepare for their move to Pensacola

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for their next set of orders. Jackie Queen will be running solo until we return, but I know she will get the job done. Don't count the days, make the days count! ⚡

Proud to be a Garuda,
CDR Lee "Spaulding" Jackson
Commanding Officer
Nos operor non excuso, nos planto fimus venio.



Ombudsman

Great job Garuda Spouses,
Families, and Friends –

April was a great month! We welcome our new, temporary family members from other squadrons that support our Sailors and hope they enjoyed one of the two VTCs, cookie social, and/or easter egg hunt. Congratulations to our Family Readiness Group and their successful festivities - we look forward to their events in May. Lastly, I'd like to thank Katie Koziol for her support as a Garuda ombudsman. She will be exploring new horizons with her family in Florida and we wish them fair winds and following seas.

V/R,
Jackie

WORDS FROM CMC



CMDM(AW/SW) W.D. Goforth
Command Master Chief

Garuda Families,

Once again, your Garuda Sailors write you emails and letters from the seas. They are proud of their accomplishments and they will never forget the life experiences gained during this WESTPAC Cruise. It is not over yet, but we are

XO'S CORNER



Commander G.D. Byers
Executive Officer

Another Proud Garuda,
CDR Gregory "Pugsley" Byers
Executive Officer

focused on mission because of your support from home.

Most off-duty time is spent working on EAWS qualification, going to the gym, reading, or perhaps "spinning a yarn" (telling sea stories). One of the age-old appeals of life as a Sailor is the chance to see the world. Brief trips ashore are refreshing and keep morale high for Sailors. The liberty ports on the way back are sure to be exciting.

Our recent, "Swim Call" was just awesome! The Garudas once again found a way to have fun by jumping off the ship for a short swim and climbing the Jacobs ladder on the stern dock. The water was crystal clear, warm and refreshing. This is a rare event that always boosts morale. The swim call history goes back as far as 1913 on the USS RHODE ISLAND. Be sure to check out the pictures on the CARL VINSON Facebook page.

Remember, an email twice a day keeps a Sailor twice as happy and a spouse smiling. Without doubt, the Garuda Sailors truly appreciate your sacrifice. We are sailing safe because we feel like family. Thank you. ⚡

Proud of the Garuda Family,
CMDM Bill Goforth
Command Master Chief

Greetings Garuda Families,

Well, I am back on the ship and happy to be back with the squadron. I am sorry I missed the port call in Jebel Ali, UAE. While it was only sandbox liberty, it sounded like a lot of folks took advantage of the MWR Tours and escaped for at least a little while and saw a bit of Dubai. I did get to take part in the swim call as did many of the Garudas. It is hard to pass up an opportunity to jump off a Navy ship and swim around in water that is a few thousand feet deep. The water was great and I am sure that everyone who participated had a great time. In fact, I heard that some if not most folks liked it so much that they jumped off numerous times.

The squadron continues to excel and we are working hard to keep the pace up to the finish. By the time you get this, we should be wrapping up our last week or so in theater and begin the slow sail home. We have some great port calls lined up, but there is still a lot of cruise left to go, so keep the letters and e-mails coming. I look forward to meeting those of you that are coming out for Tiger Cruise. It should be a blast! ⚡





MAINTENANCE CONTROL

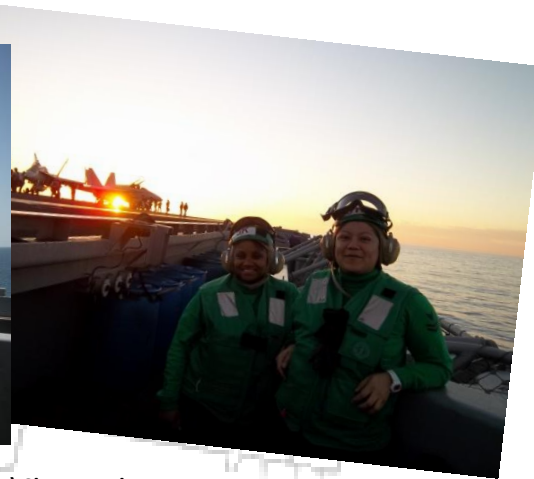
By AZ2(AW) Tommy T. Tu

The central nervous system of the Maintenance Department, the core, or Maintenance Control (as everyone calls it) has to be the single busiest work center in any squadron; this squadron is no different. Among the "immortals" of Maintenance Control are mere men who miss their everyday lives, families, and friends they have left behind. Everyday these controllers and administrationmen are working to track inspections, haggle with flight deck control, and insure a smooth flow of maintenance.

If you were to ask any of these men how this deployment has unfolded for them, you would hear responses such as one by Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Airman (AZAN) Olmeda, in which he states, "This deployment has had its ups and downs, and has been a wakeup call because it's different than being in Bagram. It has been cool seeing different parts of the world." This command has definitely made some ground despite some difficult unforeseen circumstances; Chief Morgan will be one of the first to let you know saying, "On this deployment, we have

accomplished an unprecedented sortie completion rate while dealing with serious shortfalls from the supply system, not to mention the fact we recently transitioned from an expeditionary squadron." AZ1 Brevard said, "This deployment has been longer than usual for me. I've never done a COMPTUEX and cruise at the same time." AZ2 Hudson stated, "It's been alright, but boring."

As we press forward in this deployment, everyone is keeping their eye on the ball and waiting to get through our last few weeks before we head home. ⚡



AIRFRAMES

By AM1 (AW) Bobby Clemena, AM2 (AW) Shawn Tolman,
AM2 (AW) Trevor Bates and AM2 (AW) Todd Raabe

As the Garuda set sail onboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) for their triumphant return to sea, the Airframes shop buzzed with excitement about the challenges and adventure that lay ahead for them. This has been the first shipboard deployment for several members of the shop, but once settled into our broom closet of a work space we jumped head first into Prowler maintenance and supporting the war effort. One of the biggest challenges of this deployment has been performing our daily maintenance procedures in the shipboard environment. With many maintenance actions taking several additional steps to ensure the safety of all hands, the Garuda AM's make it look like second nature.

Aside from the steady flow of maintenance,

the day-to-day shipboard life in our shop is kept somewhat normal. Airframes is a shop that always has something going on. Whether we're cracking jokes on each other, listening or sharing music, you can always find a smile on someone's face! The majority of Airframes have been together now for three years, making it our third deployment with each other. We like to consider ourselves a close knit family, always willing to help each other out no matter what the problem is.

We also have several new additions to our family, making rate training a priority along with studying for in rating exams and EAWS qualifications. This deployment also allowed the opportunity for six of us to "Stay Navy" with two taking the oath with Skipper Jackson

airborne on an SH-60 helicopter.

This cruise has been all but easy for CAG-17's finest Airframers. When aircraft 502's slat drive gear box went bad, a game of "musical gear boxes" ensued. By the time it was all said and done, we changed seven slat drive gear boxes between three different jets. With the not-so-familiar salt air environment, corrosion on the jets has been relentless. It's still not enough to keep the backbone of the squadron from fighting back even harder with several corrosion inspections performed and repainting of critical areas of the aircraft. It takes a lot of bloodied knuckles and sweaty brows to keep these war pigs in the air, but Airframes always does it with class. ⚡



SUPPLY

By LS3 (AW) Mark Hangarter

Back at home, working in the squadron consisted of eight hours of work and then going our separate ways. The night would end with either a night at the bar, or watching your favorite show at home on your own couch. The next morning felt like a new day, with new tasks, and a new outcome for the work that was about to be done. Every day that we came into work, we would train for the time when we had to leave home to defend our country. To everyone with spouses and families, it was a great challenge for them. To single personnel, including myself, it was a big change in their life.

Most of us did not know what to expect when the squadron first stepped onboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). The only knowledge I had was from listening to the rumors and stories from co-workers who have been deployed to a ship before. We soon boarded the ship, waited for orders, completed our task, and then waited for more orders. Living on the ship is different. The berthing is small and is shared by more than 80 other people, and the food is mostly the same everyday but tolerable. This makes getting packages with food from

home such a big morale boost. Sleeping proves difficult to some. Not everyone is used to jets landing and taking off one level above us, but eventually we all got used to it.

As Logistic Specialists, we work with the supply functions of the command. It is our job to expeditiously acquire material that the aircraft and/or personnel of the squadron needs. Basically the same procedures as back home in Washington, but within a different environment. The workcenter has some great characters: our Division Officer, LTJG Wes Lassiter, is known to be able to cheer anyone up, our Leading Petty Officer whose blunt methods keeps you on your toes, and our sassy supervisor who can be fun to work with.

Overall, deployment has been exciting. Work is strenuous and long, but rewards such as port calls and command bonding balances it out. We only have a few weeks out here left, with many counting the days until we come home. Everyone in the squadron has melded to become family. Just like the families we have back home, we realize the sacrifices we must make to be able to have a home to get back to. ⚡

When this deployment first began I was unsure about what would come from it. I had a new family and this would be my first deployment on a ship. The first month was tough getting new qualifications, missing my wife and son, being TAD and not knowing anyone I worked with. I had to tell myself that I am here anyway so make the best of it. Not only did I start getting quals and stepping up around the Security Department, but I also started EAWS, working towards my warfare qualification.

While we were in Busan, South Korea I was assisting the watchstanders at the gate when a shipmate had been choked out by his liberty buddy. He was unable to begin breathing again because his airway was restricted with vomit so I acted quickly to save my shipmates life. After that night my chain of command noticed leadership qualities in me and put me in a position to become a Watch Commander. I started Watch Commander UI and began training for that position.

During my time of instruction, there were a lot of challenges that were presented to me. I completed these challenges thoroughly and professionally. Now I stand the position of Assistant Watch Commander for the night section at Security. I also assist our chain of command's with CO's mast, Executive Officer Inquiry, and Disciplinary Review Boards.

These past few months underway have changed me into not only a better Master-at-Arms, but a more well rounded Sailor. The knowledge that I have received from everyone's help with EAWS will help my career for years to come and I thank everyone for that. Now that this deployment is coming to an end, I have a lot of confidence in myself and I know I can complete any task presented to me. It was definitely a learning experience and I wouldn't trade the memories and the knowledge gained for the world. ⚡

MA3 JAMES MANN





INTEL

By LTJG Julie Christie

Deployment has provided a major shift in everyday tasks for the Tactics Department. Back in Whidbey we process security clearances and manage 134's classified inventory. On deployment the Tactics personnel are assigned watch positions and utilize all the training they received in "A" and "C" School on CVN-70's Supplementary Watch Team (SUPPLOT). SUPPLOT is an Indications and Warnings watchfloor where CTT's, CTR's, and IS's stand 8-hr watches relaying enemy air, surface, and sub-surface contacts to warfare commanders.

IS3 Georgiana is one of two individuals assigned to the Maritime Interdiction Operation (MIO) watch. MIO is in charge of tracking and reporting on all piracy and suspicious activity in the (AOR). With the recent increase in piracy events, IS3 Georgiana has been very busy tracking over 50 vessels of interests and an average of two piracy events per day. IS3 Devore stands the Red Database Manager (RDBM) position. RDBM's track all foreign military vessels in the AOR while simultaneously updating all positions on a database that is transmitted to all vessels in 5th Fleet. CTT2 Hughes sits on the National OPELINT Analyst (NOA) watch. The NOA is responsible for tracking all electronic emissions in the AOR. ⚡



The Garudas of VAQ-134 would like to extend a big **"THANK YOU!"** to the ladies of the Fusion Volleyball Club of Snohomish County for the continued support received. Throughout deployment, Fusion has sent over 20 care packages to our squadron, including items such as candy, gum, snacks, movies, video games, and other useful items.

Led by Coach Anela Kaikala and Assistant Coaches Cindy Kostenick and Elise Valentine, the volleyball club has distinguished themselves as being ranked 17th out of 69 teams. Based out of Snohomish, WA, these young ladies practice in Everett and travel to compete against many other teams in the Puget Sound region. Fusion is classified as a U14 club, with all of the women in 7th and 8th grade.

Thank you ladies for your continued support. Your contribution to your community is greatly appreciated by every Sailor in VAQ-134. Thank you also to AM2 Clinton Latham for your upstanding community involvement.





AE (AW)



VAQ-134 GARUDAS WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT 2011



April 1, 2011 marked a momentous occasion onboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) as the Chief Petty Officers across multiple commands joined together in camaraderie to celebrate 118 years of deckplate leadership.

An excerpt from the CARL VINSON Voice:

"A CPO flight deck spell out of "1893" was the day's first activity, gathering of CPOs from the Vinson, CVW-17, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 1, and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 1 to commemorate the occasion. A cake-cutting ceremony in Vinson's CPO Mess brought the Chiefs together for fellowship and prompted this remark from Vinson Command Master Chief (AW/SW) April Beldo. 'If it wasn't for the Chief's Mess, I don't think we'd be able to do what we do as an organization... It's a great day to be a Chief Petty Officer.'

"Vinson's CPOs drew the day to a close with a cigar social on Vinson's fantail that featured remarks from Rear Admiral Samuel Perez, Commander Carrier Strike Group One. At taps, Beldo closed the day encouraging Vinson Sailors to meet their daily challenges and develop the experience necessary to earn the CPO anchors 'Most of us spent a few minutes reflecting on the Chiefs who influenced us. But while we looked back at the history of our Mess, we also looked forward to the day many of you will be tasked to wear these anchors and take our place... It's our job to get you there, and you have our word we'll do just that.' "

"Vinson Celebrates CPO Birthday Underway", by MC2 Byron Linder
CARL VINSON Voice



CPO'S CELEBRATE THEIR HISTORY



GARUDA RE-ENLISTS IN HELICOPTER

Congratulations to AM1 (AW) Travis Wyanthughes who got the rare opportunity to re-enlist on a helicopter flight with CDR J.L. Jackson on April 2nd, 2011. The flight was conducted courtesy of the Red Lions of HS-15.

The routine flight left the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) around 11:15am, and headed for the USS HIGGINS (DDG-76) to transfer personnel. After a hairy takeoff from the destroyer, CDR Jackson recited the Oath of Enlistment as they flew back home to the carrier.

When asked about the experience, AM1 Wyanthughes said, "It was a chance of a lifetime... The only way it could have been better is if it were a flight home."

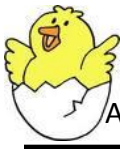


Swim Call!



When was the last time you jumped off a naval warship? For many Garudas, they can say "April 15th!" The Sailors onboard the USS CARL VINSON got the rare opportunity for a Swim Call, jumping off an aircraft elevator into the warm, clear waters of the Arabian Sea.





Congratulations Awardees!



LTJG JULIE CHRISTIE
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AT1 (AW) JASON DINNELL
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AM2 (AW) SHAWN TOLMAN
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



AT2 (AW) CHARLES SWANSON
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Congratulations to those who recently received awards at the recent Command Quarters held April 8th, 2011. Awards were presented by Commanding Officer, CDR J.L. Jackson.



AM2 (AW) CLINTON LATHAM
JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR



AD3 (AW) JOSHUA LEE
PLANE CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR



AE1 (AW) SAMUAL MILLER
SENIOR GARUDA OF 2ND QUARTER



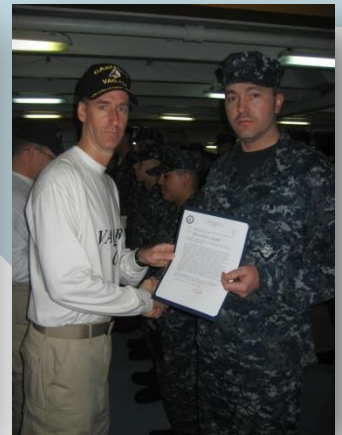
AM2 (AW) JUSTIN HODNETT
JUNIOR GARUDA OF 2ND QUARTER



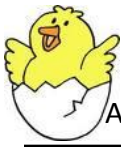
AN FRED JOHNSON
BLUE JACKET OF 2ND QUARTER



AMAN JONATHAN ROJAS
PLANE CAPTAIN OF 1ST QUARTER



AMAN RYAN WAY
PLANE CAPTAIN OF 2ND QUARTER



AD3 CODY FOUTZ
GARUDA SAFETY PROFESSIONAL



AT3 (AW) ALEX BATES
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



AD3 (AW) JOSHUA LEE
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



AD3(AW) GREGGORY ROBINSON
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



LS3(AW) MARK HANGARTER
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AE3(AW) BRYAN JULSETH
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AZAN (AW) CHRISTOPHER BENNEHOOF
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AEAN (AW) CHARLES FOLLETT
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AEAN (AW) CHRISTOPHER NEWELL
EAWS QUALIFICATION



AOAN (AW) JAIMESON POLLEN
EAWS QUALIFICATION



YNC (AW/SW) RONALD PHILLIPS
EAWS QUALIFICATION



**Congratulations to the Garudas who
re-enlisted in the month of April!**

AM1 (AW) Travis Wyanthughes 02 April 11
AD3(AW)Greggory Robinson 17 April 11
YN3 (AW) Richard Henderson 21 April 11

SAILOR OF THE YEAR: AM1(AW) S. X. BASSETT
JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR: AM2(AW) C. J. LATHAM
BLUE JACKET OF THE YEAR: AO3(AW) J. G. GOODRICH
Senior Garuda of 2nd Quarter: AE1(AW) Miller
Junior Garuda of 2nd Quarter: AM2 (AW) Hodnett
Plane Captain of 2nd Quarter: AMAN Way
Shop of the 2nd Quarter: Line Division
Blue Jacket of 2nd Quarter: AN Johnson
Safety Pro of the Month: AD3 Foutz

Ombudsman Information:

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omb.vaq134@yahoo.com
Family Contact and Assistance Officer (FCAO)
LT Ana Brown
(832) 715-8115

Find the Garuda FRG on
Facebook!

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A H B A T T E R O U T F I E L D E R O T
Y R O T I R R E T L U O F R E N N U R D
O G H E A E B D R A O B E R O C S T T G
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APPEAL
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BUNT
CATCH
COACH
DEAD BALL
DEFENSE
DOUBLE HEADER
DUGOUT
FAIR BALL

FAIR TERRITORY
FLY BALL
FORCE PLAY
FORFEITED GAME
FOUL BALL
FOUL TERRITORY
FOUL TIP
GROUND BALL
IN FLIGHT
INFIELD FLY
INFIELDER
INNING

INTERFERENCE
LEAGUE
LINE DRIVE
LIVE BALL
MOUND
OBSTRUCTION
OFFENSE
OUTFIELDER
OVERSLIDE
PENALTY
PITCHER
PIVOT FOOT

RETOUCH
RUN DOWN
RUNNER
SCOREBOARD
SHORTSTOP
STRIKE
TAG
THROW
TIE GAME
TRIPLE PLAY
UMPIRE
WILD PITCH

Care Packages for Deployed Sailors

The United States Postal Service (USPS) offers **FREE**
packaging materials to families of deployed military
members.

How to order?

- Call 1-800-610-8734, Monday-Friday (7am-7pm),
Saturday (7am-6pm)
- Press "1" (for English)
- Press "1" (for Operator)
- Ask for the "Care package for deployed Sailors" or
"The Military Kit".

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